

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) Filter device for molten steel filtration made of a ceramic material comprising fibers and a carbon bonded network of graphitized carbon, the graphitized carbon constituting the bonded network being present in an amount up to 15% by weight of the filter, the filter device comprising a protruding frame joining a plurality of sieve plates, each plate including a corrugated surface, the protruding frame and sieve plates defining a reservoir chamber, said carbon bonded network being obtained by preparing a semi-damp mixture comprising a ceramic powder and a graphitizable carbon bonding precursor, and, after forming said filter device from said mixture, firing said filter in a reducing or non-oxidizing atmosphere to a temperature of up to 1000°C.

13. (Previously Presented) The filter device of claim 12, wherein at least one corrugated surface includes a surface corrugation from 0.1-10 mm.

14. (Previously Presented) The filter device of claim 13, wherein the surface corrugation is from 1-5 mm.

15. (Previously Presented) The filter device of claim 12, wherein each sieve plate defines a plurality of through holes, and the through holes of a first plate are spaced laterally from the through holes of a second plate.

16. (Previously Presented) The filter device of claim 15, wherein the through holes have a diameter from 1-10 mm.

17. (Previously Presented) The filter device of claim 16, wherein the through hole diameter is from 2-5 mm.

18. (Previously Presented) The filter device of claim 15, wherein the through holes

comprise a shape selected from the group consisting of circular, elliptical, triangular, square, rectangular, pentagonal and hexagonal.

19. (Previously Presented) The filter device of claim 12, wherein the sieve plates include a substantially an identical geometry.

20. (Previously Presented) The filter device of claim 12, wherein the filter comprises a ceramic raw material.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a filter device made of a ceramic material comprising fibers and a carbon bonded network of graphitized carbon, the graphitized carbon constituting the bonded network being present in an amount up to 15% by weight of the filter, the filter device comprising a protruding frame joining a plurality of sieve plates, each plate including a corrugated surface, the protruding frame and sieve plates defining a reservoir chamber, the method comprising:

- a) pressing a semi-damp mixture comprising ceramic powder and a graphitizable carbon bonding precursor and fibers to obtain a first and second perforated sieve plate, each plate having a disk shape, a protruding frame, and corrugated surface on at least one surface;
- b) forming an assembly by joining the first and second perforated sieve plates by the protruding frames using a binder, whereby the plates and frame define a reservoir chamber; and
- c) firing the assembly in a non-oxidizing atmosphere to a temperature up to 1000°C to obtain said carbon bonded network.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the binder is selected from a group consisting of ceramic or carbon.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the non-oxidizing

atmosphere is a reducing atmosphere.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein firing occurs between 600-700°C.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, including roughening the corrugated surface.

27-28. (Canceled)

29. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the precursor is fired from 500-2000 °C.